

I want all our fellow citizens to understand that we're lucky to have men and women who have volunteered to serve our country like those who wear our uniform. We're lucky to have their families support them so strongly. We owe them all we can give them—not only for when they're in harm's way but when they come home, to help them adjust if they have wounds or help them adjust after their time in service. We owe a huge debt of gratitude for incredible men and women. And I—every time I come to Walter Reed, I am moved by the courage and bravery of the people I meet.

And so on behalf of a grateful nation, I want to thank our military families, thank the folks here who are wrapping gifts for the military families, and ask for God's blessings on our citizens.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:01 p.m.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

December 16

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

December 18

In the morning, the President had breakfast with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. Later, he had an intelligence briefing and met with the National Security Council. Then, in the Oval Office, he met with Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates.

Later in the morning, in the Roosevelt Room, the President met with Jewish higher education leaders.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Arlington, VA. Later, he returned to Washington, DC.

December 19

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, in the Oval Office, the President signed H.R. 6143, the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Modernization Act of 2006, and S. 3678, the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act.

Later in the morning, in the Oval Office, the President participated in an interview with the Washington Post.

In the afternoon, the President participated in a photo opportunity with U.S. Ambassadors. Later, in the Roosevelt Room, he met with White House Fellows.

In the evening, on the State Floor, the President and Mrs. Bush hosted a holiday reception.

December 20

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

The President announced his intention to appoint John V. Cogbill III as a member of the National Capital Planning Commission and, upon appointment, designate him as Chairman.

The President announced his intention to appoint Stephen J. Cassidy as a member of the Medal of Valor Review Board (Firefighting).

The President announced his intention to appoint M. Josephine Beach and Phillip M. Schofield as members of the Advisory Board on Radiation and Worker Health.

The President announced the recess appointment of Warren Bell as a member of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

The President announced the recess appointment of Wayne Cartwright Beyer as a member of the Federal Labor Relations Authority.

The President announced the recess appointment of Mark McKinnon as a member of the Broadcasting Board of Governors.

December 21

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

December 22

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, the President and

Mrs. Bush went to Walter Reed Army Medical Center where he presented Purple Heart medals to 14 soldiers. They then volunteered to wrap gifts for family members of wounded soldiers.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Camp David, MD.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released December 18

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Tony Snow

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Tony Snow and Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs Nicholas Burns

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 1472, H.R. 4246, H.R. 4720, H.R. 5108, H.R. 5736, H.R. 5857, H.R. 5923, H.R. 5989, H.R. 5990, H.R. 6078, H.R. 6102, H.R. 6151, S. 1219, S. 1820, S. 3759, S. 4050, and S. 4073

Fact sheet: Implementation of the National Strategy for Pandemic Influenza: Six-Month Status Report

Fact sheet: The United States-India Peaceful Atomic Energy Cooperation Act

Released December 19

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Tony Snow

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 5466, H.R. 6143, S. 843, and S. 3678

Fact sheet: The Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Modernization Act of 2006

Fact sheet: Combating Autism Act of 2006

Released December 20

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 394, H.R. 758, H.R. 854, H.R. 864, H.R. 1285, H.R. 1674, H.R. 4057, H.R. 4416, H.R. 4510, H.R. 4583, H.R. 5132, H.R. 5136, H.R. 5646, H.R. 6131, H.R. 6316, S. 1346, S. 1998, S. 3938, S. 4044, and S. 4046

Fact sheet: Tax Relief and Health Care Act of 2006

Released December 21

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 1492, H.R. 3248, H.R. 6342, and H.R. 6429

Released December 22

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.J. Res. 101, S. 214, S. 362, S. 707, S. 895, S. 1096, S. 1378, S. 1529, S. 1608, S. 2125, S. 2150, S. 2205, S. 2653, S. 2753, S. 3421, S. 3546, S. 3821, S. 4042, S. 4091, S. 4092, and S. 4093

Acts Approved by the President

Approved December 18

H.R. 1472 / Public Law 109–397

To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 167 East 124th Street in New York, New York, as the “Tito Puente Post Office Building”

H.R. 4246 / Public Law 109–398

To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 8135 Forest Lane in Dallas, Texas, as the “Dr. Robert E. Price Post Office Building”